

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. A household product composition comprising:

- (a) from about 0.1% to about 99% by weight of a vehicle system which comprises a hydrophobically modified water soluble polysaccharide polymer having a hydrophilic portion which comprises a water soluble polysaccharide polymer backbone selected from the group consisting of hydroxypropylcellulose (HPC), methylcellulose (MC), hydroxypropylmethylcellulose (HPMC), ethyl hydroxyethylcellulose (EHEC), and methyl hydroxyethylcellulose (MHEC), agar, dextran, locust bean gum, starch, guar, and their nonionic derivatives, and mixtures thereof and a hydrophobic moiety selected from the group consisting of C₃-C₂₄ alkyl, aryl alkyl, alkyl aryl groups and mixtures thereof, wherein the hydrophobic moiety is present in an amount up to the amount which renders said polysaccharide less than 1% by weight soluble in water and
- (b) at least one other household care ingredient selected from the group consisting of cleaning, sanitizing, polishing, pesticide, and toilet preparation products.

REMARKS

Entry of the above amendment and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Concerning the objection to the specification that the last sentence on page 1 is incomplete, this inadvertence was corrected in the Amendment mailed May 11, 1999. If this Amendment has been misplaced please let us know and we will re-send a copy of it.

The rejection of claims 1, 9, 11, 13, 14, 19, 34, and 35 under 35 USC 102 (e) as being anticipated by Clarke et al. is traversed. Applicant invention is directed to a household care product composition of a vehicle system comprising a hydrophobically modified nonionic water-soluble polysaccharide polymer and at least one other household care ingredient. Applicant has now defined in claim 1 the backbone polymer of the molecule to the exclusion of hydroxyethylcellulose (HEC). Clarke et al does not disclose applicant's invention. Clarke et al discloses a cosmetic, personal care and household care product that uses a fluid polymer suspension of at least one water soluble polysaccharide selected from methylhydroxypropylcellulose (MHPC), methylhydroxyethylcellulose (MHEC), methylcellulose (MC), hydroxyethylcellulose (HEC), and hydrophobically modified hydroxyethylcellulose (HMHEC) in aqueous carrier solution comprised of salt. The aqueous carrier solution must also contain low molecular weight water-soluble polymer. That is, the polymer must be delivered as a mixture of salt, water, in conjunction with another low water soluble polymer. This FPS system has limitations in that it must be shipped or stored between 45°F and 140°F. It is unusable if stored below 45°F. Since the instant application no longer claims the generic HMHEC as a polymer in this invention, Clarke et al is no longer relevant as a reference against this invention. Hence, Clarke et al clearly does not anticipate this invention.

Concerning the possible interference with the Jones patent (No. 5,916,967), it is submitted that this patent does not have any conflicting subject matter with the instant invention. Briefly, this patent claims an aqueous composition that comprises at least two surfactants, at least one associative thickener, and water. The

associative thickener can be HMHEC, hydrophobically modified nonionic polyol, and hydrophobically modified alkali-soluble emulsion polymer. Since HMHEC generically has been cancelled from the claims of the instant invention, this reference no longer claims any of the polymers of the instant invention. Moreover, this patent claims relationships of HLB values of its surfactants that the instant invention can not claim. Hence, there clearly is no conflicting subject matter in the instant invention and this Jones patent.

The criticality of the instant invention is that applicant can use a non-associative or associative thickener that has never been used before in household care products and has illustrated this point many times in the numerous examples set forth in the specification. Hence, a person skilled in the art armed with the Clarke or Jones patent would not be able to practice applicant's invention because there is nothing in these references or any secondary teaching that would lead a person to use the teaching of Jones in the household care formulation of the instant invention. Hence, a person having an ordinary skill in the art armed with Jones would not be able to practice applicant's invention in view of the above arguments.

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and prompt notification thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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March 7, 2002